

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 IO-13 AID-05 EUR-12 /074 W

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R 240934Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8709

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 5068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MMOL, AF, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MAJOR GENERAL ABDUL QADER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

1. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, THE CHARGE, ACCCOMPANIED BY THE DEFENSE AND AIR ATTACHES, CALLED UPON THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. ALTHOUGH PRIMARILY A COURTESY CALL TO INTRODUCE THE NEW AIR ATTACHE, A FEW ITEMS OF INTEREST WERE RAISED.

2. THE CHARGE AND AIRA EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR DUBS WOULD LIKE TO USE THE AIRCRAFT UPON HIS ARRIVAL AND THIS REQUIRED THAT THE CREW MAKE SOME TRAINING FLIGHTS PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED NO RESERVATIONS AND IT APPEARS AT THIS TIME THAT USE OF THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE ALLOWED ALONG THE SAME LINES AS BEFORE THE COUP.

3. THE CHARGE EXPLAINED THE THREE BASES OF U.S. POLICY HERE, AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND REGIONAL STABILITY. THE MINISTER REPLIED WITH THE NOW STANDARD REFRAIN THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS, IS, AND WILL REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND NONALIGNED, AND THAT IT WOULD JUDGE THE FRIENDSHIP OF OTHER COUNTRIES BY THE AMOUNT OF UNCONDITIONAL AID IT RECEIVED. THE CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THE U.S. WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEASURED BY AFGHAN ACTIONS, NOT WORDS. THE MINISTER THEN ATTEMPTED AN ERROR RIDDLED DESCRIPTION OF HOW AFGHAN FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S. WAS DEMONSTRATED BY AFGHAN WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT U.S. ASSISTANCE. WHEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIETS WAS COMPARED WITH THE LACK OF AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S., HE EXPLAINED THAT MANY PROJECTS WERE STILL UNDER

REVIEW, BUT FINALLY ADMITTED HE DID NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. WHILE REMARKING ON AFGHANISTAN'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH IRAN, HE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ANY SUCH REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN.

5. MAJOR GENERAL QADER WAS SPORTING THE INSIGNIA OF HIS NEW RANK, RECEIVED DURING THE PAST WEEK, AND AS ALWAYS WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL. HE SEEMED SLIGHTLY SUBDUE AND ONLY OCCASIONALLY BROKE INTO HIS NORMALLY CHARACTERISTIC EYE-FLASHING ANIMATION. HE SHOWED NO SIGN OF HAVING BEEN WOUNDED AS WAS REPORTED TO US SOME WEEKS AGO.

AMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

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